REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-8 and 16-23 having been amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1-8 and 16-23 is found, for example, at page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 5, page 27, lines 2-14, and Figs. 4 and 7-14. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; and Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Force et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0130945, hereinafter Force) in view of Ng (U.S. Patent No. 4,627,019), and further in view of Yamamoto (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/008677); Claims 3, 4, 7-10, and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Force in view of Ng and Yamamoto, and further in view of Benson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20003/0200212, hereinafter Benson); and Claims 16-23 were rejected under the same rationale as Claims 1-8.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on April 16, 2008. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review when a response is filed. Arguments and claim amendments presented during the interview are submitted for formal consideration.

With respect to the objection to the specification, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner indicated during the above-noted interview that reciting "session management unit" and "transaction management unit" was acceptable. If additional changes are needed,

the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who would happy to work with the

Examiner to derive mutually acceptable claim language.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, the independent apparatus claims

are amended to recite a processor. Accordingly, there is a clear structural aspect to the

claimed invention in Claims 1-15, and these claims are statutory. MPEP § 2106 further

provides that "Only when the claim is devoid of any limitations to a practical application in a

technological arts should it be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101...."

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Force in view of Ng and

Yamamoto, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 1 overcomes this

ground of rejection. Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

> a session management unit configured to interact with
> the processor and to manage a series of session processing
> steps and incidental information, wherein said session
> management unit is configured to
>
>> receive a session start request and information
>> to authenticate the one or more clients,
>>
>> create session information including a session
>> ID, a first time-out period, and authentication data,
>> the first time-out period indicating how long the
>> session management unit holds the session
>> information, and
>>
>> extend the first time-out period by an amount
>> based on the function that needs exclusive access
>> control if a session extension request including the
>> session ID and a client ID is received during the first
>> time-out period and deleting the session information
>> and ending the session if the session extension request
>> is not received during the first time-out period; and
>
> a transaction management unit configured to interact
> with the processor and to manage a series of indivisible
> transaction processing steps performed by using the function
> that needs exclusive access control in a state where the
> transaction processing is continued by extending a second
> time-out period, which indicates how long transaction
> information is stored, by an amount based on the function
> that needs exclusive access control, the transaction

information including a transaction ID, the second time-out
period, and the session ID.

Force, Ng, and Yamamoto taken alone or in proper combination, do not disclose or suggest

this element of amended Claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Yamamoto to describe the features of a time-

out period. Yamamoto describes a client-server relationship in which a session between the

client and server may time-out. Yamamoto describes that a **user on the client side** is

provided with a window that presents a time-out value normally contained in the HTTP

session object. The **user on the client side** can use the window to enter an additional amount

of time to keep the session pending.[1] Yamamoto describes that a user on the client side

inputs an amount of time to extend the time-out period through a graphical user interface

shown in Fig. 13B of Yamamoto.

In the invention defined by Claim 1, the client does not determine by how much to

extend the time-out period. In the invention defined by Claim 1, the session management

unit, which is not part of the client (see preamble of Claim 1 which distinguishes between the

information-processing apparatus and a client) extends the time-out period.

Furthermore, since the user in Yamamoto determines by how much the time-out

period is extended, there is no disclosure or suggestion that a session management unit

extends the time-out period **by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive**

access control. In Yamamoto, the amount of the extension is at the discretion of the user of

the client.

Also, Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest a second time-out period associated

with the transaction management unit. In the invention defined by Claim 1, there is a first

time-out period associated with the session management unit, and a second time-out period

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[1] Yamamoto, paragraph [0058].

associated with the transaction management unit. This feature, as described in Claim 1, is not

disclose or suggested by Yamamoto.

Thus, Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest the above-noted elements of amended

Claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action acknowledges that Force and Ng "do not explicitly

teach extending a time-out period...."[2] Thus, Force and Ng do not cure the deficiencies in

Yamamoto.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1

patentably distinguishes over Force, Ng, and Yamamoto, taken alone or in proper

combination. Claims 2-8 and 16-23 recite elements analogous to those of Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8 and 16-23 (and any claims dependent thereon)

patentably distinguish over Force, Ng, and Yamamoto, taken alone or in proper combination,

for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Addressing each of the further rejections, each of the further rejections is also

traversed by the present response as no teachings in any of the further cited references to

Benson can overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Force, Ng, and Yamamoto.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that those rejections be withdrawn for similar
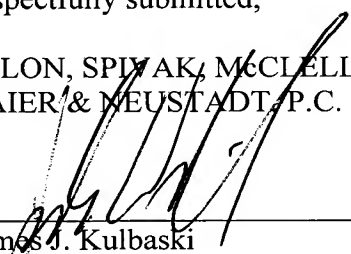
reasons as discussed above.

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[2] Office Action, page 4.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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